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VOTING DEVICE WITH ENHANCED FEEDBACK

2 Abstract of the Disclosure

3 The object of the present invention is to disclose a punch-card voting
4 device that alerts the user to the fact that a punching error has occurred. In
5 voting devices that produce a machine-processable record card, such as the
6 Votomatic, votes are counted photo-electrically by shining a light through
7 holes punched in the ballot card. According to the present invention, the
8 greatest certainty regarding what punch-outs represent a valid vote can be
9 obtained only if the same principle is employed to inform the voter as to
10 whether or not his punch-out is going to count. To provide this verification,
11 backlighting is introduced that directs a beam of light upward through each
12 punch-out toward the voter's eye. To achieve the optimum results, this
13 backlighting is combined with mechanical improvements that minimize defective
14 punch-outs.